



PSC NEWS

Missouri Public Service Commission

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PSC GRANTS CENTURYTEL REQUEST FOR COMPETITIVE CLASSIFICATION IN SOME OF ITS EXCHANGES

JEFFERSON CITY—A majority of the Missouri Public Service Commission has granted a CenturyTel of Missouri, LLC (CenturyTel) request for competitive classification in some of its exchanges under a new state law (SB 237) which took effect on August 28, 2005.

The Commission has granted competitive classification for residential services in the CenturyTel exchanges of Ava, Columbia, Crane, Marshfield and Seymour. CenturyTel has 96 exchanges in Missouri.

Under competitive classification, CenturyTel will no longer be subject to price or rate regulation by the PSC for the above exchanges. CenturyTel will be permitted to raise or lower its telephone prices at its own discretion, subject to the marketplace. The PSC will retain its ability to regulate quality of service, service termination and other billing issues.

In this case, state law requires the Commission to issue its decision within 30 days of CenturyTel's February 1, 2006 filing. Under SB 237, the 30-day criteria for determining competitive classification is based upon the existence of two other entities providing basic local telecommunications service, one of which may be a wireless provider, the other a wireline company providing local voice service using facilities in which it has a partial or full ownership interest.

The Commission reviewed the information filed by CenturyTel in this case as well as the PSC Staff recommendation of approval. "Based on that information, the Commission finds that Mediacom is providing facilities-based local voice service to residential customers in the Ava, Columbia, Crane, Marshfield and Seymour exchanges," the Commission's order said. "In addition, the Commission finds that there is at least one non-affiliated commercial mobile radio services (CMRS) carrier providing service to residential customers in the Ava, Columbia, Crane, Marshfield and Seymour exchanges."